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ROYLANCE, ABRAMS, BERDO & GOODMAN, L.L.P.			HAN, JASON	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/617,041

Applicant(s)

HYDER, LASHANNON S.

Examiner

Jason M Han

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a. Page 4, Paragraph 17, Line 4: misspelling – should read “so as to enable one skilled in the pertinent art”;
 - b. Page 5, Paragraph 20, Line 14: misspelling – should read as “mechanism is described below”;
 - c. Page 9, Paragraph 32, Line 3: “52a-d” should read as “52a-c”;Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 49 is objected to because of the following informalities: In line 4 of the claim, it should read as “output push-in wiring terminals”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following claim rejections have been rejected in light of the specification, but it should be noted that the examiner has rendered the broadest interpretation [MPEP 2111].

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3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aubrey (U.S. Patent 5065292).

Aubrey discloses a lighting fixture including:

- a transformer [Figure 2: (300)] having a power supply fitting [Figure 2: (306)] and a power output fitting [Figure 2: (301)], whereby the supply and output fittings are adapted to respectively connect an end of an electrical power supply wire [Column 7, Lines 45-48] and an end of an electrical output wire [Figure 2: (13)] to the transformer, and the electrical power supply wire is adapted to connect the transformer to an electrical power supply [Column 7, Lines 48-55]; and
- a lamp holder [Figure 2: (12)] having an electrical power supply [Figure 2: located on the base of the lamp] and power output [Figure 2: (200)] connectors, whereby the supply connector is adapted for attachment of an opposing end of the electrical power output wire [Figure 2: (note connection at the bottom of the lamp)], the output connector is adapted for attachment of another electrical power supply wire [Figure 1: (104)], and the lamp holder is adapted to receive a lamp [Figure 1: (100)].

4. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aubrey (U.S. Patent 5065292).

Aubrey discloses a lighting fixture including:

- a transformer [Figure 2: (300)] having a power supply fitting [Figure 2: (306)] and a power output fitting [Figure 2: (301)], both of which are push-in wiring

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terminals, whereby the supply and output fittings are adapted to respectively connect/disconnect an end of an electrical power supply wire [Column 7, Lines 45-48] and an end of an electrical output wire [Figure 2: (13)] to the transformer, and the electrical power supply wire is adapted to connect/disconnect the transformer to an electrical power supply [Column 7, Lines 48-55]; and

- a lamp holder [Figure 2: (12)] having an electrical power supply [Figure 2: located on the base of the lamp] and power output [Figure 2: (200)] connectors, whereby the supply connector is adapted for attachment of an opposing end of the electrical power output wire [Figure 2: (note connection at the bottom of the lamp)], the output connector is adapted for attachment of another electrical power supply wire [Figure 1: (104)], and the lamp holder is adapted to receive a lamp [Figure 1: (100)].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald (U.S. Patent 3231731) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668).

McDonald discloses a low voltage luminaire assembly including:

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- a transformer [Figure 1: (12)] having a power supply fitting [Figure 1: (11)] and a power output fitting [Figure 1: (14)], whereby the supply and output fittings are adapted to respectively connect an end of an electrical power supply wire and an end of an electrical output wire to the transformer, and the electrical power supply wire is adapted to connect the transformer to an electrical power supply [Figure 1: (10)]; and
- a lamp holder [Figure 2: (500)] having an electrical power supply and power output connectors [Figure 4: (310, 312)], whereby the supply connector is adapted for attachment of an opposing end of the electrical power output wire, the output connector is adapted for attachment of another electrical power supply wire, and the lamp holder is adapted to receive a lamp [Figure 1: (16)].

It should be noted that the above claim has been rejected in light of the specification, but has been broadly interpreted [MPEP 2111]. With respect to the connectors for the lamps, the examiner is well aware of the structural limitation regarding two separate wire connections being inserted into a connector, but assumes such a configuration a matter of design preference and the above reference functionally equivalent in providing electrical communication. It would also have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have separated the wire, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. *Nerwin v. Erlichman*, 168 USPQ 177, 179.

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What McDonald does not specifically teach is the supply and output fittings adapted for quick-release of the respective ends of the electrical power supply and output wires.

Gibilisco discloses a quick detachable electrical connector [Figure 1].

It would have been obvious to modify the luminaire assembly of McDonald to incorporate the quick detachable electrical connector of Gibilisco in order to provide easy assembly/disassembly of the transformer and/or the lamp holders. Such connectors are well known and obvious within the art, and are also considered a matter of design preference by the examiner.

6. Claims 2-7 and 9-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald (U.S. Patent 3231731) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668) as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Hatch (Non-Patent Literature).

7. With regards to Claim 2, McDonald in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach the transformer having an electrical protection system.

Hatch discloses electronic transformers that include an Electronic Short Circuit and over load Protection (ESP) [Pages 1, 5, 8].

It would have been obvious to modify the luminaire assembly of McDonald with the electrical connector of Gibilisco to further incorporate the transformer of Hatch to provide safety to a user and the system. Such a configuration is also an obvious design choice, whereby applicant corroborates motivation, "Although a variety of transformers

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may be used as the transformer 12, a suitable transformer is available from Hatch Transformers, Inc. of Tampa, Florida [Page 6, Paragraph 23]."

8. With regards to Claim 3, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers rated between about 20 watts to about 60 watts [Pages 2, 5, 8].

9. With regards to Claim 4, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers adapted to receive about 120V AC and outputting from about 11V DC to about 12V DC [Pages 2, 5, 8].

10. With regards to Claim 5, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers including a mountable side adapted to mount the transformer to an object [see pictures on Pages 4 and 6].

11. With regards to Claim 6, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers that may be mounted via screws or nails [see pictures on Pages 4 and 6]. Such a limitation is an obvious matter of design preference and the mentioned list of mounting means are well known in the art.

12. With regards to Claim 7, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Gibilisco discloses the electrical connector [Figures 2-3: (312)] being a push-in wire connector.

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13. With regards to Claim 9, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above except for the supply wire being rated for about 120V AC. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used electrical wire rated "SPT-2 #18AWGx2C," as cited by the applicant [Page 7, Paragraph 26], since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416. In this case, such electrical wiring rated for 120V AC is commonly known for use in lamp assemblies.

14. With regards to Claim 10, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, McDonald discloses an electrical plug component [Figure 1: (10)] being connected to the electrical power supply wire.

15. With regards to Claim 11, it has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchinson*, 69 USPQ 138. It is also obvious and commonly known that an electrical plug component is adapted to pierce an electrical wire so as to ensure electrical communication.

16. With regards to Claim 12, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers that are "compatible with most incandescent dimmers" [Pages: 1, 4, 5]. It is

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also obvious that the dimmer switch would have to be connected to the electrical power supply wire, which is commonly held in the art, i.e. rheostats.

17. With regards to Claim 13, it has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchinson*, 69 USPQ 138. It is also obvious and commonly known that a dimmer switch would have been adapted to pierce an electrical wire so as to ensure electrical communication.

18. With regard to Claims 14-15, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, McDonald discloses the lamp holder including a second mountable side [Figure 2: (204)] adapted for mounting the lamp hold to an object [Figure 1: (202)] via a bolt or screw [Figure 2: (205); Column 2, Line 22]. Such a limitation is an obvious matter of design preference and the mentioned list of mounting means are well known in the art.

19. With regard to Claims 16-17, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Gibilisco teaches the electrical connector providing means for releasing a wire [Figure 1: (22)], wherein the means is a quick-release button [Figure 1: (56)]. With respect to the quick-release button being adapted to temporarily neutralize a spring constant, it has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform and does not constitute a limitation

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in any patentable sense. The examiner makes note that Gibilisco does however teach the quick-release button neutralizing a spring constant [Figure 1: (26, 36, 38, 39)].

20. With regards to Claim 18, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch teaches the transformers being used in conjunction with a incandescent lamp [please note the Dimming sections on Pages 1 and 5]. Such a limitation is an obvious matter of design preference and the mentioned list of lamps are well known in the art.

21. With regards to Claim 19, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above except for the lamp holder having a plurality of lamp holders. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a plurality of lamp holders within said lamp holder of Claim 1, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8. In this case, mere duplication of the lamp holders is an obvious means for providing stronger illumination and is commonly known within the art.

22. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald (U.S. Patent 3231731) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668) and Hatch (Non-Patent Literature) as applied to Claim 7 above, and further in view of Addario (U.S. Patent 4300188).

McDonald in view of Gibilisco and Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above except for the wire connectors being corrosion resistant.

Addario discloses a detachable lamp assembly wherein a connector assembly incorporates a corrosion resistant contact means [Column 8, Line 14, Claim 1.B.b.1].

It would have been obvious to modify the luminaire assembly of McDonald with the electrical connector of Gibilisco and the transformer of Hatch to further incorporate the corrosion resistant connector of Addario to protect from rust and ensure a longer life for the assembly.

23. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald (U.S. Patent 3231731) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668).

McDonald discloses a low voltage luminaire assembly including:

- a transformer [Figure 1: (12)] having a power supply fitting [Figure 1: (11)] and a power output fitting [Figure 1: (14)], whereby the supply and output fittings are adapted to respectively connect an end of an electrical power supply wire and an end of an electrical output wire to the transformer, and the electrical power supply wire is adapted to connect the transformer to an electrical power supply [Figure 1: (10)].

McDonald does not specifically teach the supply and output fittings adapted for quick-release of the respective ends of the electrical power supply and output wires for electrical connection/disconnection.

Gibilisco discloses a quick detachable electrical connector [Figure 1] having a push-in wiring terminal [Figure 1: (10, 20)].

It would have been obvious to modify the luminaire assembly of McDonald to incorporate the quick detachable electrical connector of Gibilisco in order to provide

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easy assembly/disassembly of the transformer and/or the lamp holders. Such connectors are well known and obvious within the art, and are also considered a matter of design preference by the examiner.

24. Claims 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald (U.S. Patent 3231731) in view of Gibilisco (U.S. Patent 2713668) as applied to Claim 20 above, and further in view of Hatch (Non-Patent Literature).

25. With regards to Claim 21, McDonald in view of Gibilisco discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach the transformer having an electrical protection system.

Hatch discloses electronic transformers that include an Electronic Short Circuit and over load Protection (ESP) [Pages 1, 5, 8].

It would have been obvious to modify the luminaire assembly of McDonald with the electrical connector of Gibilisco to further incorporate the transformer of Hatch to provide safety to a user and the system. Such a configuration is also an obvious design choice, whereby applicant corroborates motivation, "Although a variety of transformers may be used as the transformer 12, a suitable transformer is available from Hatch Transformers, Inc. of Tampa, Florida [Page 6, Paragraph 23]."

26. With regards to Claim 22, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers including a mountable side adapted to mount the transformer to an object [see pictures on Pages 4 and 6].

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27. With regards to Claim 23, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses transformers that may be mounted via screws or nails [see pictures on Pages 4 and 6]. Such a limitation is an obvious matter of design preference and the mentioned list of mounting means are well known in the art.

28. With regards to Claim 24, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Gibilisco teaches push-in wiring terminal being adapted for quickly releasing a wire [Figure 1; Column 1, Lines 19-30].

29. With regards to Claim 25, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, McDonald teaches a lamp holder [Figure 2: (500)] having an electrical power supply and power output connectors [Figure 4: (310, 312)], whereby the supply connector is adapted for attachment of an opposing end of the electrical power output wire, the output connector is adapted for attachment of another electrical power supply wire, and the lamp holder is adapted to receive a lamp [Figure 1: (16)]. It should be noted that the above claim has been rejected in light of the specification, but has been broadly interpreted [MPEP 2111]. With respect to the connectors for the lamps, the examiner is well aware of the structural limitation regarding two separate wire connections being inserted into a connector, but assumes such a configuration a matter of design preference and the above reference functionally equivalent in providing electrical communication. It would also have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

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was made to have separated the wire, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art.

Nerwin v. Erlichman, 168 USPQ 177, 179.

30. With regards to Claim 26, it has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchinson*, 69 USPQ 138. Regardless, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, McDonald teaches the lamp holder [Figure 1: (16)] being connected to another lamp holder [Figure 1: (17, 18)] via another lamp holder lead wire.

31. With regard to Claims 27-28, McDonald in view of Gibilisco and further in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, McDonald discloses the lamp holder including a mountable side [Figure 2: (204)] adapted for mounting the lamp hold to an object [Figure 1: (202)] via a bolt or screw [Figure 2: (205); Column 2, Line 22]. Such a limitation is an obvious matter of design preference and the mentioned list of mounting means are well known in the art.

32. Claims 29-34, 36, and 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter (U.S. Patent 6283612).

33. With regards to Claim 29, Hunter discloses a luminaire assembly including the steps of:

- providing a lamp holder [Figure 1: (20)] and a transformer [Figure 1: (64)];
- attaching the lamp holder to an area [Figure 15: (66)];

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- attaching the transformer to an area [Figure 15: (64)];
- connecting a lead wire [Figure 1: (60); Column 5, Line 60 – Column 6, Line 15] from the lamp holder to a capture and quick-release fitting [Figure 1: (62)] of the transformer.

34. With regards to Claim 30, Hunter discloses the lamp holder having a plurality of lamp holders that need attaching [Figure 1: (44)].

35. With regards to Claim 31, Hunter discloses linking of at least two lamp holders via a lead wire [Figure 16].

36. With regards to Claim 32, Hunter discloses connecting the transformer to a source of electrical power [Figure 15: (70)].

37. With regard to Claims 33-34, Hunter discloses various lengths of the wire [Figures 1, 15, 16: (60)] between each lamp holder. It is inherent when installing that one would require measuring and then cutting the lead wire to a required length.

38. With regards to Claim 36, Hunter discloses attaching an electrical plug component to the transformer to connect the transformer to the electrical power source [Figure 1].

39. With regards to Claim 38, Hunter discloses connecting the lead wire to the capture and quick-release fitting of the transformer via a double flag spade connector [Column 6, Lines 6-8], which acts as a detent device.

40. With regards to Claim 39, Hunter discloses inserting a lamp within the lamp holder [Column 5, Lines 47-50].

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41. With regards to Claim 40, Hunter discloses that the lead wire may be routed in a non-linear orientation [Figures 1, 15, 16; Column 6, Lines 59-65].

42. Claims 35 and 41-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter (U.S. Patent 6283612) as applied to Claim 29 above, and further in view of Hatch (Non-Patent Literature).

43. With regards to Claim 35, Hunter discloses a luminaire assembly as cited above, but does not specifically teach the transformer being mounted. It should be noted that Hunter does disclose mounting means, such as "glue, adhesive, threaded hardware, or any other convenient method" for the lamp holders [Column 6, Lines 38-43].

Hatch discloses electronic transformers with mounting means [see pictures on Pages 4 and 6].

It would have been obvious to modify the luminaire assembly of Hunter to incorporate mounts for the transformer of Hatch in order to provide flexibility with respect to installation. For example, a user may mount the transformer in an inconspicuous corner on a wall.

44. With regard to Claims 41-42, Hunter in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses electronic transformers including Electronic Short Circuit and over load Protection (ESP) [Pages 1, 5, 8], which also incorporate a built-in circuit breaker [note section on Electronic Short-Circuit Protection on Page 1].

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45. Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter (U.S. Patent 6283612) as applied to Claim 36 above, and further in view of Hatch (Non-Patent Literature).

Hunter discloses a luminaire assembly as cited above, but does not specifically teach attaching a dimmer switch proximate the electrical plug component.

However, Hatch teaches electronic transformers that are "compatible with most incandescent dimmers" [Pages 1, 4, 5].

It would have been obvious to attach the dimmer switch, as taught by Hatch, proximate the electrical plug component within the luminaire assembly of Hunter in order to provide greater control over the illumination. Such a configuration is commonly known within the art. With respect to the dimmer switch being selective in adjusting a resistance in an electrical circuit between the plug and transformer, it has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchinson*, 69 USPQ 138. Besides, such a limitation is commonly held in the art with rheostats.

46. Claims 43-44 and 46-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter (U.S. Patent 6283612).

47. With regards to Claim 43, Hunter discloses a luminaire assembly whereby one may service by:

- disconnecting the luminaire assembly from a source of electrical power

[Figure 15: (70)];

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- releasing electrical wires from one of a transformer [Figure 1: (64)] and a lamp holder [Figure 1: (20)] with a quick-release connection [Figure 1: (62)];
- removing the transformer and lamp holder from the installation area [inherent];
- attaching a replacement transformer and lamp holder in the installation area [inherent]; and
- reinserting the electrical wires between the replacements [inherent].

48. With regards to Claim 44, Hunter discloses that one could reconnect the luminaire assembly to the electrical power source [Figure 15: (70)].

49. With regards to Claim 46, Hunter discloses that one could adjust the position of the transformer and/or the lamp holder [Column 6, Lines 44-65].

50. With regards to Claim 47, Hunter discloses, "FIGS. 9, 10 and 15 illustrate this base 66 which is formed of an extruded thermoplastic and may be attached by glue, adhesive, threaded hardware or any other convenient method. The base 66 may be pre-punched with holes or a pressure sensitive adhesive may be placed on the bottom to complete the mounting [Column 6, Lines 37-42; underline added for emphasis]."

51. With regards to Claim 48, Hunter discloses that one may insert or remove a plurality of bulbs [Figure 16 or Figure 1: (44)].

52. Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter (U.S. Patent 6283612) as applied to Claim 43 above, and further in view of Hatch (Non-Patent Literature).

Hunter discloses a luminaire assembly as cited above, but does not specifically teach the transformer being replaceable with a higher rated transformer.

Hatch discloses electronic transformers with various ratings [Pages 1-9].

It would have been obvious to modify the luminaire assembly of Hunter to incorporate a high rated transformer of Hatch, which is an obvious design choice that is dependent on the number of lamp holders as well as desired illumination intensity.

53. Claims 49-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter (U.S. Patent 6283612).

54. With regards to Claim 49, Hunter discloses a lighting assembly including:

- a lamp holder [Figure 1: (20)] having an electrical power supply and power output push-in wiring terminals [Figure 1: (62)], whereby the electrical power supply push-in and output push-in wiring terminals are adapted for respectively connecting and disconnecting an electrical power supply and power output wires [Figure 1: (60)] to the lamp holder.

55. With regard to Claims 50-51, Hunter discloses, "FIGS. 9, 10 and 15 illustrate this base 66 which is formed of an extruded thermoplastic and may be attached by glue, adhesive, threaded hardware or any other convenient method. The base 66 may be pre-punched with holes or a pressure sensitive adhesive may be placed on the bottom to complete the mounting [Column 6, Lines 37-42; underline added for emphasis]."

56. With regards to Claim 52, Hunter discloses the electrical power supply and power output push-in wiring terminals adapted for quickly releasing a wire [Column 6, Lines 6-11; 44-50]. Such a limitation is also inherent of the invention of Hunter.

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57. With regards to Claim 53, Hunter discloses a transformer [Figure 1: (64)] having an input connector [Figure 1: (62)] for connecting to the electrical power output connector of the lamp holder via a lead wire [Figure 1: (60)].

58. Claims 54-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter (U.S. Patent 6283612) as applied to Claim 53 above, and further in view of Hatch (Non-Patent Literature).

59. With regards to Claim 54, Hunter discloses a luminaire assembly as cited above, but does not specifically teach the transformer being mountable.

Hatch discloses electronic transformers with mounting means [see pictures on Pages 4 and 6].

It would have been obvious to modify the luminaire assembly of Hunter to incorporate mounting means for the transformer of Hatch in order to provide flexibility with respect to installation. For example, a user may mount the transformer in an inconspicuous corner on a wall.

60. With regards to Claim 55, Hunter in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hunter discloses mounting means, such as "glue, adhesive, threaded hardware, or any other convenient method" [Column 6, Lines 38-43], which may be applied to the transformer.

61. With regards to Claim 56, Hunter in view of Hatch discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hatch discloses electronic transformers including Electronic Short Circuit and over load Protection (ESP) [Pages 1, 5, 8], which also incorporate a built-in circuit breaker [note section on Electronic Short-Circuit Protection on Page 1].

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following references are cited to further show the state of the art pertinent to the current application but may not be exhaustive:

US Patent 1347737 to Douglas;	US Patent 2617844 to Sanda;
US Patent 2720634 to Hart;	US Patent 2946977 to Sheldon;
US Patent 4104606 to DeWitt;	US Patent 4234915 to Malinowski et al;
US Patent 4482944 to Roossine et al;	US Patent 4532579 to Merryman;
US Patent 4566749 to Johnston;	US Patent 4631650 to Ahroni;
US Patent 4639841 to Salestrom et al;	US Patent 4655520 to Cummings;
US Patent 4713019 to Gaynor;	US Patent 4759726 to Naylor et al;
US Patent 4821162 to Ellis;	US Patent 4828505 to Shwisha;
US Patent 4835915 to Nilssen;	US Patent 4855882 to Boss;
US Patent 4855646 to Peckitt et al;	US Patent 4979081 to Leach et al;
US Patent 4996636 to Lovett;	US Patent 5029057 to Devir et al;
US Patent 5034865 to Sonneman;	US Patent 5045981 to Nagano;
US Patent 5102348 to Chou;	US Patent 5150964 to Tsui;
US Patent 5154508 to Ahroni;	US Patent 5158360 to Banke;
US Patent 5203626 to Clement;	US Patent 5292260 to Sinisi et al;
US Patent 5321592 to Marinacci;	US Patent 5330368 to Tsuruzono;
US Patent 5339232 to Lin;	US Patent 5455754 to Hoffner;
US Patent 5637017 to Hsu;	US Patent 5738436 to Cummings et al;
US Patent 5785411 to Komai et al;	US Patent 5833358 to Patik;
US Patent 5957564 to Bruce et al;	US Patent 6089884 to Klaus;

US Patent 6227687 to Kahwaji;	US Patent 6261120 to Beege et al;
US Patent 6290365 to Schlesinger;	US Patent 6506950 to Natoli et al;
US Patent 6533437 to Ahroni;	US Patent 6648492 to Shih;
US Patent 6648498 to Tsao;	US Patent 6719581 to Kikuchi;
US Patent 6726344 to Lee;	US Patent 6794830 to Lansing et al;
US Patent 6793369 to Calzaretta et al;	US Patent 6808289 to Reed;
US Patent 6814462 to Fiene;	US Publication 2002/0093819 to Chen et al;
US Publication 2002/0106931 to Hsien-Te.	

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason M Han whose telephone number is (571) 272-2207. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


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JMH (11/23/2004)



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